

choir—"Age of reason, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee." The audience again joins in a grand old song—"All hail the power of Voltaire's name, let his followers prostrate fall." Then follows a solo—"There will be no more sorrow down there, there will be no sorrow there, down in the grave where we must all go." The speaker then takes his text.

The audience is quiet awaiting some words of cheer, to help them in their doubts and fears. The speaker proceeds—"My friends my text is as follows—"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; henceforth there is laid up for me—a leap in the dark." "My friends, the talk you hear, of the hope beyond, is a strange delusion, a heathenish fable. Christ was a fraud. The Bible is a romance. Heaven only exists in imaginative minds. In order then to become scientific, and be progressive we must establish ourselves upon the solid rock—"human reason." Then they join in singing the doxology, "Praise Paine from whom all blessings flow, praise him all his followers here below; praise him ye earthly hosts; praise Paine of whom we all may boast." Then the benediction—"Now my natural philosophy, science and human reason abide with you, one and all, until you go down into your graves never to rise any more." Again we see a people go to church and read the Bible and teach the young of Christ who came to save, they join their voices in songs of praise to the one true God, and pray Him to lead them into a purer life, to bring about better morals, and a deeper spirituality, and a higher state of civilization. Their hope is anchored within the veil, to the "Rock of Ages." They can look through the clouds of doubt and fear and behold the Son of God, who said "Let not your heart be troubled ye believe in God believe also in me"—"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again and will receive you unto myself, that where I am there ye may be also." Christianity is not a delusion and a cheat. It was not established by a set of impostors, whose hearts were empty and whose minds were corrupt. By their fruits ye shall know them. What has the former ever done for humanity, for civilization, for modern improvements or anything that is noble and true. Let all praise be to God for the Christian religion, that enables us to stand upon the solid Rock and look back over our Christian service and forward toward the fadeless crown that Christ the righteous judge shall give at his appearing.

Let us take time for the evening prayer.

HOW CAN WE AWAKEN A DEEPER INTEREST IN SOCIAL MEETINGS.

ANNA WOHLFORD.

When God created man his great plan was to have them dwell in peace and unity. He wants us to be faithful, loving creatures, awake and alive, not only to our own interests, but to the interests of our friends, neighbors and associates.

With this end in view, different churches have organized various societies where young and old may meet and exchange views and worship the Great Redeemer. Often we find that these societies have become a failure, not because the Lord has withdrawn his tender, watchful care, but because members have grown weary and negligent. What earnest, devoted Christian can grow weary of serving the blessed Master.

"Take my yoke upon you and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Let us not be timid and reckless in our social meetings, but let each one make a special effort to do his best.

Welcome one and all, not only the most prominent members, but be not forgetful to entertain the stranger that is within thy gates, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

If all would go about with kindly smiles and outstretched hands how many more would be gathered together at our meetings instead of driven away. We should be very careful with the young souls and provide suitable entertainment for them and not plod along in the old rut too long or they will invariably grow careless.

Do all that lies in your power and trust the rest to God, for surely he will guide us. His "Peace, be still," has many times acted as oil on troubled waters, and often the dark clouds have rolled away.

The beautiful silver lining and rainbow of hope still shines on, for God lives and will protect his own.

IT CURED HIM.

C. H. WETHERBE.

The biographer of the celebrated Quaker, Isaac Hopper of Philadelphia, says: "Having faith in fines and constables, Hopper had a very profane man named Cain, arrested and brought before a magistrate who fined him for blasphemy. Twenty years after, Isaac met Cain, whom he had not seen for a long time. His outward appearance was much changed for the worse; his garments were tattered and his person emaciated. This touched the friend's heart. He stepped up, shook hands and spoke kindly to the forlorn being. 'Dost not thou remember me?' said the Quaker, 'and how I had thee

finned for swearing on the streets of Philadelphia?' 'Yes, indeed, I do. I remember what I paid, as well as yesterday.' 'Well, did it do thee any good?' 'No, never a bit; it made me mad to have my money taken from me.' Hopper invited Cain to reckon up the interest on the fine and paid him principal and interest. 'I meant it for thy good, Cain, and I am sorry I did thee any harm.' Cain's countenance changed; the tears rolled down his cheeks, he took the money with many thanks, became a changed man, and was never heard to swear again." It was the kindness and compassion of the Quaker which at last cured the wicked Cain of his profanity. The law did not do it, it probably restrained him for a little while, from outward profanity. The fear of punishment had some effect upon the man, but it was kindness, sympathy and practical compassion which wrought most effectually. We may profitably ponder on this good example.

WHAT IS CHRIST TO ME?

Z. T. LIVENGOOD.

In order to understand the statement, "What is Christ to me," ask yourself the question, what is mother and father to me, that is if you have a good father and mother. What have good friends been to you? You know that while you were yet young and inexperienced, the enemy came to entrap you, temptations came and tried you at every approach of your nature. If you were not caught in the snare, how did it come? At that time what was that godly father and mother to you? If you are a sober, honest, industrious and good man or woman, you owe much to some one other than yourself for your goodness. You are the one to select your advisers and companions to a large extent, especially after you have come to the years of manhood.

Then when I am asked to tell what Christ has been to me I answer, he *has been* and *is* the cause direct and indirect of all the good in me. Am I a believer in God? Jesus gave me that true faith. Am I pure? Jesus taught me true purity. Am I altruistic? Jesus lived such a life and instructed all to live the same unselfish life. Am I honest? Jesus exemplified such a life, and influenced me by precept and example to be honest. Am I meek, humble, loving, kind, faithful and forgiving in the sight of God? Then Jesus has been a continual help to me in attaining this disposition. I will say for convenience sake that I am happy, that I find a good deal of joy in my cup of life. What has Christ had to do with my happy life, what has he had to do with that lasting joy in my